7th February 1924]

Removal of the black flags by the Police during His Excellency the Viceroy's visit.

248 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the section of law or other authority under which Madras City Policemen trespassed into Mr. M. Singaravelu Chettiyar's house and removed the black flags he had hung up there during His Excellency the Viceroy's visit ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 63.

Prosecution against Mr. C. S. Sitarama Ayyar of Conjeeveram.

249 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons why the District Magistrate of Chingleput initiated proceedings against one C. S. Sitarama Ayyar of Conjeeveram in January 1923, and why the prosecution was dropped subsequently ;

(b) whether the District Magistrate of Chingleput forced the said Sitarama Ayyar, under threat of criminal prosecution, to withdraw his claim for damages against the Swiss Government or Consul ; and

(c) whether all foreign letters addressed to the said Sitarama Ayyar are being censored by the Local Government since March 1923 and, if so, the reasons for this course ?

A.—(a) No proceedings were initiated against C. S. Sitarama Ayyar in January 1923. A notice was served on C. S. Sitarama Ayyar to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for certain offences, but no formal complaint having been preferred and the Government being of the opinion that C. S. Sitarama Ayyar was not quite sane, no further steps were taken.

(b) No.

(c) No.

Elections.

Election to the Local Boards and Legislative Assemblies.

250 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if the Government are aware of the difference existing between the right of a karnam and that of a village headman to compete for election to local boards and the Legislative Assemblies ?

A.—There is no difference in the case of elections to the Legislative Assemblies. In the case of local boards, the hon. Member's attention is drawn to section 54 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

Electricity.

Development of Hydro-Electric Power.

251 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have framed or are framing any policy with the object of developing hydro-electric power in the Presidency ?